

Claims

[c1] 1. A user information retrieval device for retrieving information from one or more remote databases in an information retrieval system based on position coordinates of the user information retrieval device, wherein the user information retrieval device comprises:

- a positioning system unit configured for determining the position coordinates of the user information retrieval device;
- a transmitter configured for transmitting the position coordinates to a remote computer over a wireless network;
- a receiver configured for receiving information from the remote computer over the wireless network wherein the received information relates to one or more geographical sites within a given distance from the position coordinates of the user information retrieval device; and
- a user interface configured for providing the received information to a user.

[c2] 2. The user information retrieval device of claim 1 wherein the user information retrieval device is selected from a group consisting of a wireless telephone and a personal digital assistant (PDA).

[c3] 3. The user information retrieval device of claim 1 wherein the user interface comprises a display configured for displaying the received information.

[c4] 4. The user information retrieval device of claim 1 wherein the user interface comprises a speaker and a voice synthesizer configured for playing the received information over the speaker.

[c5] 5. The user information retrieval device of claim 4 wherein the user interface further comprises a microphone and a voice recognition system configured to receive audio commands via the microphone.

[c6] 6. The user information retrieval device of claim 4 wherein the user interface further comprises a Braille pad configured for receiving commands.

[c7] 7. The user information retrieval device of claim 1 further comprising memory for storing a user profile having parameters for limiting the information transmitted to the user information retrieval device based on the parameters.

[c8] 8. The user information retrieval device of claim 1 wherein the retrieved information contains one or more links for accessing one or more websites using the user information retrieval device, wherein the one or more websites are associated with one or more of the geographical sites

[c9] 9. The user information retrieval device of claim 1 wherein the retrieved information contains one or more maps illustrating the position of the user information retrieval device with respect to one or more geographical sites.

[c10] 10. The user information retrieval device of claim 1 wherein the retrieved information contains temporal event information relating to one or more of the geographical sites.

[c11] 11. A remote computer for retrieving information from one or more remote databases in an information retrieval system based on position coordinates of a user information retrieval device in response to receiving position coordinates from at least one user information retrieval device, wherein the remote computer comprises:
a receiver configured for receiving the position coordinates from at least one user information retrieval device over a wireless network;
a processor configured for retrieving information related to one or more geographical sites from one or more databases based on the position coordinates; and
a transmitter configured for transmitting the information to the user information retrieval device which sent the position coordinates of the user information retrieval device over the wireless network.

[c12] 12. The remote computer of claim 11 wherein the processor is further configured to filter the information transmitted to the user information retrieval device using parameters in a user profile associated with a user information retrieval device.

[c13] 13. The remote computer of claim 11 wherein the processor is further configured to obtain temporal event information related to the one or more geographical sites and the transmitter is further configured for transmitting the

temporal event information to the user information retrieval device over the wireless network.

[c14] 14. A method of retrieving information from one or more remote databases in an

information retrieval system based on position coordinates of a user information retrieval device, wherein the method comprises the steps of: determining the position coordinates for the user information retrieval device; transmitting the position coordinates to a remote computer over a wireless network;

receiving information from the remote computer over the wireless network, and providing the received information to a user, wherein the received information relates to one or more geographical sites within a given distance from the position coordinates for the user information retrieval device.

[c15] 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of providing the received information is selected from the group consisting of displaying the received information on a video display and playing the received information on a speaker using a voice synthesizer.

[c16] 16. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of limiting the information transmitted to a user information retrieval device using parameters from a user profile which is associated with the user information retrieval device.

[c17] 17. A method for retrieving information relating to one or more geographical sites from one or more remote databases in an information retrieval system in response to receiving position information from a user information retrieval device, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

- receiving position coordinates from at least one user information retrieval device over a wireless network;
- gathering information relating to one or more geographical sites from one or more databases; and
- transmitting the information to the at least one user information retrieval device over the wireless network.

[c18] 18. The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of limiting the information transmitted to the at least one user information retrieval device based on parameters from a user profile associated with the user information retrieval device.

[c19] 19. The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of adjusting the given distance based on the amount of information retrieved for the received Position coordinates from the at least one user information retrieval device.